

## Caldecote Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

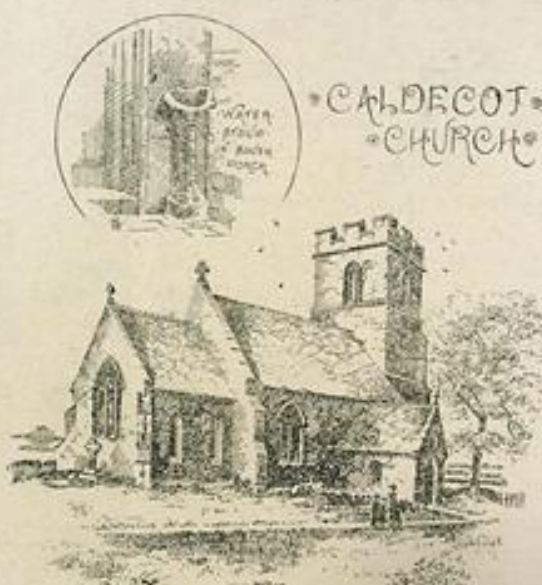
### Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

EXPRESS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1893.

### AN ARTIST'S RAMBLES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE.



**\* CALDECOTE \*  
\* CHURCH \***

**CALDECOTE CHURCH.**

This church, dedicated to St. Michael, is pleasantly situated on an eminence, and from the tower a very extensive view may be obtained. The church was carefully restored in 1861, and there is a very interesting but mutilated holy water stoop in the south porch. The church has chancel, nave, and both north and south porches. Pict de Cambridge (whose wife, Hugolina, founded a religious house and St. Giles' Church in Cambridge) gave the inappropriate title of Caldecote to the monks of Barnwell, but these titles are now vested in the Master and Fellows of Christ's College. It was anciently a chapel to Bosen. The Virage is consolidated with the Rectory of Toft.

BARRINGTON.

At Caldecote, a very interesting and large S. L. M. The Vicar had been and he was the one. Mr. no less than a left the night.

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Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the  
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the  
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online  
at [bit.ly/CambsCollection](http://bit.ly/CambsCollection)

<https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Mike%20Petty%22>

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.  
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get  
in touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central  
Library where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled  
since the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – [www.mikepetty.org.uk](http://www.mikepetty.org.uk) for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

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1901 05 22

Parishioners of Toft and Caldecote were present at a meeting protesting against the dismissal of Miss Veall, the schoolmistress. In February the rector gave out Church Catechism books to the children and asked them to learn a certain portion as a home-lesson. Three of the books were returned by the parents who said they did not wish their children to learn it. Miss Veall returned the books to the Rector and told him what they had said. He accused her of inviting the parents not to learn the Catechism and the following day she received notice. Parents proposed starting a school in the Primitive Methodist Chapel

1910 03 25

A meeting was held in a barn at Caldecote to consider establishing an egg depot under the National Poultry Organisation Society. Producers were at the mercy of 'middlemen' who cut up the profits and local co-operation would alter this. Eggs would be collected three times a week, stamped to guarantee they are new laid and delivered to the markets at the earliest possible date. At present the eggs are collected once a week and are often over eight days old before being put on the market. This is not as good as French eggs which are sold within four or five days. 10 03 25d & e

1914 05 01

Death of a Crimean Veteran. We regret to record the death of Mr. Holden Wesnutt, which occurred at Caldecote at the age of 75 years. Mr. Wesnutt went through the Crimean War.

1914 05 08

Double Military Funeral. A remarkable coincidence occurred at Caldecote last week, two ex-Army men, who had been great friends, passing away at the same date and hour. They were accorded a double military funeral on Saturday afternoon

1922 05 25

A heavy thunderstorm, which missed Cambridge, passed over the country districts accompanied by hail of enormous size. At Cottenham the deluge was most intense for about ten minutes. The hail stones measured 1 ½ (one-and -half) to 1 ¾ (one and three quarter) inches and some which were picked up were, it is said, as large as hen's eggs. Many panes of glass were broken in the greenhouses at Mr Gautrey's nurseries. Severe damage was done to the strawberry and plum crops. Other villages including Dry Drayton were deluged with torrential rain and hail of unusual size. At Caldecote and Hardwick windows were broken and the hailstones are reported to have been the size of walnuts

1928 01 07

A fire broke out at a bungalow at Caldecote known as 'South View', home of John Smith, a market gardener. The building which was of two storeys consisted of four rooms and a lean-to attached. Owing to its exposed situation and the strong wind that was blowing the fire blazed with great fury and pieces of burning material were blown towards Manor Farm. Police and villagers did what they could but as its interior was match-boarded it was impossible to save the bungalow, which was completely destroyed. Only the iron framework and corrugated iron roofing and part of the lean-to is remaining. Even the concrete slabs of the walls were levelled to the ground. It was warmed by a stove, the chimney of which went up through the flooring of the bedroom above and it is believed that the high wind drawing up the fire in the stove overheated the pipe.

1931 09 18

Despite the fact that the outside world is pessimistically inclined, the inhabitants of Caldecote are convinced that there's a 'good time coming' and are combining in an effort to build themselves a village hall. Caldecote do not do things by halves: they mean to have the best

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hall in the vicinity and are prepared to pay something like £450 for it to make the village more attractive for its youth. 31 09 18d;

1931 10 02

Caldecote's new village hall marks a new era in the social life of the village. Made of timber it is tastefully decorated and there is a piano for dances. It. "Some have said it will be run as a young 'hell upon earth', but we have no intention of applying for a licence to sell intoxicating liquor or carry on dances until two o'clock in the morning. Midnight is plenty late enough", the chairman said. 31 10 02g & h

1937 10 22b

The Bishop of Ely says money is needed for building new churches in rapidly developing centres of population, such as St George's off Milton Road, Cambridge, and the maintenance of church schools. But many old buildings are in serious structural difficulties due to subsidence or dry rot. Some such as Upwood and Croydon are already 'hospital cases'. Inhabitants of Balsham, Caldecote, Benwick and Carlton do their best but are unable to meet the expenditure necessary to put their churches into repair. Soon an Appeal Fund will be launched. 37 10 20e

1944 01 21

Death of former Churchwarden. The death occurred on Friday, after a brief illness at the age of 81 years, of Mr. Joseph Butler Porter Clarke, of Manor Farm, Caldecote, where he farmed successfully for many years. Well-known and respected in the district, Mr. Clarke had in past years been overseer of the parish, and for about 50 years had faithfully discharged his duties as a churchwarden at Caldecote.

1948 03 04

A dispute over the possible revision of the boundary between Caldecote and Bourn was the subject of a public inquiry at Elsworth British Legion Hall. In 1946 the first parish council for Caldecote was elected and an undertaking entered into that the question of the boundary should receive attention. Caldecote village shop was, in fact, in Bourn parish, together with a number of other houses actually in Caldecote village. There was no dispute that they should be included in Caldecote who had given them telephonic and telegraphic facilities and provided educational facilities for the children. It had also included a special rule to enable the inhabitants to use Caldecote village hall. The point at issue was the inclusion of a factory occupied by Pest Control which was formerly part of the R.F. Station, Bourn

1948 10 05

The 1,200 villagers of Caldecote, Dry Drayton and Hardwick are "living on the edge of a volcano" and at any time a grave outbreak of disease might overtake them. So said Dr A. Morgan, M.O.H. to Chesterton rural district council at a public inquiry into plans to borrow £27,125 to defray the cost of works of a water supply for these parishes. At present the council have to cart something like 6,000 gallons of water a week to these parishes to supplement the meagre well supplies. At Caldecote, as a temporary measure, stand-pipe supplies have been provided at some points. The rest of the village was dependent upon stored rainwater and supplies carted by the Council

1950 09 29

The 'Twelve Men of Caldecote' – members of the village's Smallholders Defence Association - have decided to fence off 40 acres of land held by members, in protest against the Ministry of Agriculture's decision to acquire the holdings compulsorily and have them farmed as part of a large block. "We have had notice that the tenancies terminate on Saturday, but we intend to carry on as we have done in the past, cultivating the holdings successfully", a member said.

1952 12 29

In the oil-lit schoolroom at Toft on Thursday before Christmas, the chairman of the Parish Council pressed a button, and electricity came to the village. The school was crowded for the official switching-on ceremony. The original proposals were made in 1939 but were held up by the war. With the nationalisation of the supply industry a programme for orderly development was drawn up. Toft and Caldecote were among the first villages in the Cambridge district to receive a supply, which would serve about 70 consumers. They welcomed the arrival of electricity and looked forward to the enjoyment of its many advantages. There were demonstrations of domestic appliances and cookery and washing machines.

1954 07 12

Highfields is a new hamlet in the valley but planners have banned all permanent developments and people living in shacks have been unable to build anything better. They wanted Highfield to be allowed to rot and all the people drift away. Now an Association has been formed to stop the breaking up of what is growing into a virile and active community and they would continue the five-year battle to build up this new village, which is the main residential area of Caldecote. The R.D.C. realise the village needed homes and it would be a simple matter to approve them; but large-scale development would be followed by serious drainage problems. The erection of council houses was very expensive and it was more economical to group together those required by two or three villages, as at Bourn.

1954 07 29

The Ministry of Housing have overruled the RDC and allowed the erection of a dwelling house on land at Main Street, Highfields, Caldecote. This has opened up a new page in history for a number of residents anxious to improve their properties. They had acquired smallholdings on which they wished to build a house in which to live. It was a community which could not just be wiped off the map and they would do what they could to develop the place. The making up of the back road would enable frontagers to sell off plots for development.

1954 09 09

Senior school pupils from the Caldecote and Childerley Gate area who cannot now attend Cottenham School owing to overcrowding are due to start in temporary school buildings on the Bourn aerodrome site. But their parents will refuse to allow them to attend; they say there is a pig farm less than 30 yards away and when it rains the site is absolutely marshy. Derelict buildings nearby have broken windows, it is surrounded by rubble and more squalid than a bomb site. A new senior school should be erected next to the existing Childerley Gate Primary School for £5,500 if built with pre-fabricated material

1961 04 28

The 'Caldecote News' keeps a watchful eye on the village and reports briefly on its activities. It has been in circulation for nearly two years but sells to only thirteen people. It is the hobby of two small boys who spend much of their free time collecting and arranging items, working out crossword puzzles and selling advertising space. Robert Swindells (11) is the editor with 10-year-old Robin Brammar as reporter. When it first came out it was handwritten but Robert bought a typewriter with money he was given at Christmas and uses carbon paper to get four copies at a time. If circulation continues to grow he will have the paper duplicated 61 04 28b

1973 03 27

Captain Adrian Hudson, a self-confessed Colonel Blimp, and one of the best-known eccentrics in Cambridgeshire was found dead last night in his battered caravan home at Caldecote. About 10 years ago he began a long war of attrition with all forms of bureaucracy. He called for the dissolution of Caldecote parish council and he once tried to take a collection of plastic buckets into the public gallery at a county council meeting. Once, when

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interviewed, he described himself as "an old blimp. One of the many Old Blimps knocking around disregarded by pedagogues who don't know how to run anything"

1987 08 29

Another developer has put in plans for a new village off the A45. Hillson and Twigden want to build 1,500 homes on 200 acres of farmland east of Highfields, near Caldecote. They say it would link up with rapidly-expanding Hardwick and provide additional schooling and shopping. It did not use top agricultural land and was close to the underused A45 dual carriageway which would be even less used when the A1/M1 link is built. There are already five other plans for a new village between Bourn and Caxton as an alternative to the preferred county council site off the A10 near Ely. 87 08 29